

SIMULATED LOG SIDING SYSTEM AND METHOD

REFERENCE TO PRIOR APPLICATION

[0001] The current application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Utility Patent Application No. 10/422,892, filed on April 24, 2003, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The invention relates to siding for a building, and more particularly to a system and method for simulating log siding on a building.

2. BACKGROUND ART

[0003] A log cabin appearance is popular for houses and other buildings. While some log buildings continue to be built, owners often prefer to have the building constructed using the more modern framing approach. Currently, a log cabin appearance is achieved for a frame-built building by stacking half logs cut appropriately along the desired surface of the building and attaching the logs to the frame structure of the building. One of the more popular log styles is a “butt and pass” style. The butt and pass style is implemented by placing a “pass corner” log along one side of an outer corner of a building that extends beyond the corner of the building. A “butt corner” log is placed in the same plain along the second side of the outer corner and butts

against the pass corner log. Typically, the pass corner log is placed on alternating sides along the height of the building.

[0004] Another corner style incorporates a “vertical post log corner” for an outer corner of the building. For this style, logs on either side of the corner butt against a vertical post that runs along the height of the building. In a building constructed using a modern framing approach, the vertical post look can be made by, for example, cutting out of a log a section that conform to the corner of the building, and subsequently attaching the log to the corner. One or more rows of half logs can then be attached on each side of the corner so that they abut the vertical post.

[0005] However, achieving the log appearance using logs poses many drawbacks. For example, the logs typically shrink over time causing gaps between the logs to increase, thereby requiring regular maintenance to fill newly formed gaps. Regular maintenance is also required so that the logs do not lose coloration and/or start to deteriorate over time. In climates such as the southeastern United States, termites and other pests also pose a threat to the use of log siding. Additionally, many individuals view the use of a large quantity of timber as being wasteful of the available natural resources.

[0006] Use of non-wood siding such as vinyl has become increasingly popular in recent years. Non-wood siding beneficially offers less maintenance, easier installation, increased lifetime, and is often less expensive to install. Non-wood siding is commonly used to simulate a painted clapboard appearance for buildings. Some approaches have been suggested for creating a log cabin appearance using non-wood siding. However, many of these approaches fail to address creating a butt and pass log corner and/or the vertical post log corner appearance. Further, these

approaches do not provide an efficient solution for attaching the simulated log siding to a building.

[0007] As a result, there exists a need for a system and method for simulating the butt and pass log corner and/or the vertical post log corner for an outer corner of a building. Further, there exists a need for a system and method that allows the simulated log siding to be efficiently attached to the building.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The invention provides a system and method for simulating log siding on a building. In particular, a butt and pass log corner is simulated using a pass corner siding piece and a butt corner siding piece. Each siding piece can be attached to a respective side of an outer corner of the building on the same plane. The two siding pieces can be configured to join at the point of contact to provide additional strength to the siding. The pass corner siding piece can simulate either a full round butt and pass look or a traditional butt and pass look for the portion that extends beyond the corner. A straight siding piece can also be provided to simulate the log siding along a side of the building. A first outer edge of the siding pieces can be attached to the building by nailing, screwing, or the like. The second outer edge can be configured to slide between the first outer edge of a previously attached, adjacent siding piece. A nailing strip can be provided to assist in attaching the initial siding pieces. Each outer edge can be configured to slope in a downward direction away from the building when attached to assist in the drainage of water.

[0009] Additionally, a vertical post log corner can be simulated using an outer corner log siding piece. In this case, the outer corner log siding piece can have one or more straight siding pieces attached adjacent to the outer corner log siding piece. Further, for doors, windows, and other openings in the siding pieces, a channel siding piece can be provided that is configured to accept and hide an end of one or more adjacent siding pieces.

[0010] A first aspect of the invention provides a method for simulating a butt and pass log corner for an outer corner of a building, the method comprising: attaching a pass corner siding piece to a first side of the outer corner; attaching a butt corner siding piece to a second side of the outer corner on the same plane as the pass corner siding piece to form a row; and joining the butt corner siding piece to the pass corner siding piece.

[0011] A second aspect of the invention provides a system for simulating a butt and pass log corner for an outer corner of a building, the system comprising: at least one pass corner siding piece, wherein the pass corner siding piece extends approximately eight inches beyond the outer corner; and at least one butt corner siding piece that joins to the at least one pass corner siding piece proximate the outer corner.

[0012] A third aspect of the invention provides a system for simulating a butt and pass log corner for an outer corner of a building, the system comprising: pass corner siding pieces; butt corner siding pieces, wherein each butt corner siding piece joins to a pass corner siding piece proximate the outer corner; straight siding pieces; and a starter nailing strip.

[0013] A fourth aspect of the invention provides a method for simulating a vertical post log corner for an outer corner of a building, the method comprising: attaching an outer corner log siding piece to the outer corner; attaching a first siding piece to a first side of the outer corner

adjacent to the outer corner log siding piece; and attaching a second siding piece to a second side of the outer corner adjacent to the outer corner log siding piece and on the same plane as the first siding piece to form a row with the first siding piece, wherein the first siding piece and the second siding piece each comprise a straight siding piece.

[0014] A fifth aspect of the invention provides a system for simulating a vertical post log corner for an outer corner of a building, the system comprising: an outer corner log siding piece, wherein the outer corner log siding piece is configured to be attached to a first side and a second side of the outer corner; and a plurality of siding pieces, wherein each of the plurality of siding pieces is configured to be attached to the building adjacent to the outer corner log siding piece and in a substantially perpendicular direction to the outer corner log siding piece.

[0015] A sixth aspect of the invention provides a system for simulating log construction of a building, the system comprising: a plurality of straight siding pieces for attaching to a side of the building; a starter nailing strip for attaching a first row of straight siding pieces to the building; a channel siding piece for covering an end of a straight siding piece adjacent to an opening in the building; and means for simulating at least one of a vertical post log corner and a butt and pass log corner on an outer corner of the building.

[0016] The illustrative aspects of the present invention are designed to solve the problems herein described and other problems not discussed, which are discoverable by a skilled artisan.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] These and other features of this invention will be more readily understood from the following detailed description of the various aspects of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0018] FIG. 1 shows a building having a simulated butt and pass log corner according to one embodiment of the invention;

[0019] FIG. 2 shows a side view of a simulated butt and pass log corner having a full round pass log look;

[0020] FIG. 3 shows a side view of a simulated butt and pass log corner having a traditional pass log look;

[0021] FIG. 4 shows a top view of the junction of a pass corner siding piece and a butt corner siding piece installed on an outer corner of a building according to one embodiment of the invention;

[0022] FIG. 5 shows a top view of the junction of two butt corner siding pieces installed on an inner corner of a building according to another embodiment of the invention;

[0023] FIG. 6 shows a cross-sectional view of an illustrative siding piece according to still another embodiment of the invention;

[0024] FIG. 7 shows a close up view of portions of two adjacent siding pieces installed on a building;

[0025] FIG. 8 shows illustrative siding pieces that join using a slot and tab system according to yet another embodiment of the invention;

[0026] FIG. 9 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative siding piece according to another embodiment of the invention;

[0027] FIG. 10 shows a perspective view of a building corner having a simulated vertical post log corner according to one embodiment of the invention;

[0028] FIG. 11 shows a top view of the building corner shown in FIG. 10;

[0029] FIG. 12 shows a cross-sectional view of an outer corner log siding piece according to one embodiment of the invention;

[0030] FIG. 13 shows a cross-sectional view of an illustrative channel siding piece; and

[0031] FIG. 14 shows an illustrative building having simulated log siding.

[0032] It is noted that the drawings of the invention are not to scale. The drawings are intended to depict only typical aspects of the invention, and therefore should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention. In the drawings, like numbering represents like elements between the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0033] The invention provides a system and method for simulating log siding on a building. In particular, a butt and pass log corner is simulated using a pass corner siding piece and a butt corner siding piece. Each siding piece can be attached to a respective side of an outer corner of the building on the same plane. The two siding pieces can be configured to join at the point of contact to provide additional strength to the siding. The pass corner siding piece can simulate either a full round butt and pass look or a traditional butt and pass look for the portion that extends beyond the corner. A straight siding piece can also be provided to simulate the log

siding along a side of the building. A first outer edge of the siding pieces can be attached to the building by nailing, screwing, or the like. The second outer edge can be configured to slide between the first outer edge of a previously attached, adjacent siding piece. A nailing strip can be provided to assist in attaching the initial siding pieces. Each outer edge can be configured to slope in a downward direction away from the building when attached to assist in the drainage of water.

[0034] Additionally, a vertical post log corner can be simulated using an outer corner log siding piece. In this case, the outer corner log siding piece can have one or more straight siding pieces attached adjacent to the outer corner log siding piece. Further, for doors, windows, and other openings in the siding pieces, a channel siding piece can be provided that is configured to accept and hide an end of one or more adjacent siding pieces.

[0035] Turning to FIG. 1, a building 10 is shown having an outer corner 12 and a corresponding inner corner 13. Outer corner 12 is formed at a junction of a first side 14 and a second side 16 of building 10. Building 10 is constructed using framing, in which a foundation 18 is poured, studs 20 are installed to frame building 10, and exterior sheathing 22 and housewrap 24 are applied to the exterior of building 10 for insulation, as is well known in the art. It is understood, however, that the invention can be applied to buildings 10 constructed using any approach. Further, while outer corner 12 is shown as an approximately ninety degree angle, it is understood that the invention can be applied to an outer corner 12 having any angle more or less than ninety degrees.

[0036] Outer corner 12 of building 10 has a simulated butt and pass log corner 26 constructed according to one embodiment of the invention. As shown, simulated butt and pass log corner 26

is constructed using a plurality of pairs of pass corner siding pieces 28, and butt corner siding pieces 30. Each pass corner siding piece 28 is attached to one side of outer corner 12, and a corresponding butt corner siding piece 30 is attached on the same plane as pass corner siding piece 28 to the other side of outer corner 12 thereby forming a row of siding pieces. Additional pass corner siding pieces 28 and butt corner siding pieces 30 can be attached to building 10 forming a plurality of rows along the height of outer corner 12 of building 10. In a typical embodiment, the side of building 10 on which pass corner siding piece 28 is attached is alternated for adjacent rows. In this embodiment, each pass corner siding piece 28 simulates a “full round” pass log. However, it is understood that pass corner siding piece 28 can simulate any shape, including a “traditional” butt and pass log corner. A plurality of straight siding pieces 31 are also provided to simulate a log look along sides 14, 16 of building 10.

[0037] The siding pieces can be manufactured using any approach now known or later developed. For example, siding pieces can comprise a single molded unit made of polypropylene or the like. The exterior sides of the siding pieces can be molded to simulate, for example, a natural cedar grain, texture, and/or draw knife appearance. Each siding piece can simulate a log having a width that corresponds to commonly used log widths. Typical log widths include, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, and fourteen inches and can be dependent upon the type of wood (i.e., cedar, pine, spruce, fir, etc.), and/or log style (i.e., handcrafted log, milled cabin log, etc.) that is being simulated. Pass corner siding pieces 28 can extend beyond the corner by any desired length and can have any desired width. A typical length/width combination comprises a length of approximately eight inches beyond the building with a width of approximately eight inches. In this embodiment, the portion of siding pieces that attach to the building would have a width of

approximated three and a half inches. It is understood that the various siding pieces discussed herein can be provided in different lengths or can be cut to varying lengths to stagger the seams that are formed when two siding pieces abut. Further, it is understood that while each siding piece is discussed as simulating a single log, multiple adjacent logs can be simulated in a single siding piece.

[0038] FIG. 2 shows a side view of a simulated butt and pass log corner 126 having the full round pass log look. In this embodiment, each pass corner siding piece 128 includes a narrower portion 132 that is attached to a building, and a rounded portion 134 having a greater height and width that extends beyond the building. Each butt corner siding piece 130 is configured to meet a pass corner siding piece 128 at the outer corner of the building. FIG. 3 shows a side view of a simulated butt and pass log corner 226 having the traditional butt and pass log look. In this embodiment, each pass corner siding piece 228 maintains substantially the same height as it extends beyond the outer corner of the building. However, each pass corner siding piece 228 has a larger width for the portion that extends beyond the building.

[0039] FIG. 4 shows a top view of the junction of a pass corner siding piece 328 and a butt corner siding piece 330 installed at a substantially ninety degree outer corner of building 310. As can be seen, butt corner siding piece 330 and the portion 332 of pass corner siding piece 328 that is attached to building 310 have substantially the same widths. However, pass corner siding piece 328 also includes a wider portion 334 that extends beyond the outer corner of the building to simulate a wider log. Pass corner siding piece 328 includes a transition portion 336 that has a width that varies from the width of portion 332 to the width of wider portion 334. In one embodiment, transition portion 336 has an interior side 338 that forms an approximately forty-

five degree angle 340 with the interior side of narrow portion 332. Similarly, butt corner siding piece 330 includes a corner end 342 that forms an approximately forty-five degree angle 344 with the interior side of butt corner siding piece 330. Use of an approximately forty-five degree angle allows two butt corner siding pieces 330 to also be used at a substantially ninety-degree junction of an interior corner of a building since the two butt corner siding pieces can join to one another. For example, FIG. 5 shows the junction of two butt corner siding pieces 330A, 330B attached to building 310 at an interior corner.

[0040] FIG. 6 shows a cross-sectional view of a siding piece 50 according to one embodiment of the invention. Siding piece 50 can comprise a butt corner siding piece, a straight siding piece, and/or a pass corner siding piece. Siding piece 50 includes an interior side 52 that is attached to a building, and an exterior side 54 that faces away from the building. Exterior side 54 may include a simulated wood finish (see e.g., FIG. 1). In this embodiment, exterior side 54 is rounded. However, it is understood that exterior side 54 can comprise any shape. Siding piece 50 further includes a top outer edge 56 and a bottom outer edge 58. Top outer edge 56 is configured to slope at a slightly downward angle when siding piece 50 is installed on a building. This promotes any water that may be present to flow away from the building. Bottom outer edge 58 is also configured to slope at a slightly downward angle so that bottom outer edge 58 and a top outer edge 56 of an adjacent siding piece butt against each other.

[0041] Siding piece 50 further includes an interior bracing 60. Interior bracing 60 provides additional structural support to assist siding piece 50 in maintaining its shape. Further, interior bracing 60 can be used to support insulating material, and/or as a top outer edge of a siding piece that requires cutting to be placed on a building. For example, for a siding piece having an

exterior side of eight inches, interior bracing 60 can be placed every two inches to provide support should the siding piece require cutting. Although shown at a substantially right angle to interior side 52, interior bracing 60 can be configured to slope in a slightly downward direction similar to top outer edge 56. Interior bracing 60 can run contiguously along the length of siding piece 50 or can comprise a plurality of relatively narrow supports or “ribs” spaced along the length of siding piece 50.

[0042] Siding piece 50 further includes a nailing strip 62 proximate to top outer edge 56, and a barb 64 proximate to bottom outer edge 58. As shown in FIG. 1, nailing strip 62 includes at least one row of a plurality of apertures 66 that allow a nail, screw or the like to be inserted to attach siding piece 50 to a building. Barb 64 comprises a narrowed portion of interior side 52 that is configured to slide between a nailing strip 62 of an adjacent siding piece 50 and the building to hold bottom outer edge 58 in place. In this embodiment, an interior side 68 that is adjacent to bottom outer edge 58 does not contact the building when siding piece 50 is installed. This allows interior side 68 to form a channel with the building into which the nailing strip 62 of an adjacent siding piece can be inserted to engage barb 64. Using this installation approach, it is understood that two configurations of pass corner siding pieces and butt corner siding pieces would need to be provided having their respective corner ends on opposite sides of the siding pieces.

[0043] FIG. 7 shows a close up view of portions of a siding piece 150A installed adjacent to a previously installed siding piece 150B. In this embodiment of siding piece 150B, two rows of apertures 166A, 166B are included on nailing strip 162. Siding piece 150B is attached to building 110 using rows of apertures 166A, 166B. To facilitate installation of an adjacent siding piece, the end of nailing strip 162 can include a slight bend away from building 110 when siding

piece 150B is installed. To install siding piece 150A, barb 164 is slid between nailing strip 162 and building 110. Interior side 168 provides sufficient space to allow nailing strip 162 to pass between interior side 168 and building 110 and be engaged by barb 164. In one embodiment, nailing strip 162 extends about one and a half inches above top outer edge 156, interior side 168 extends about one and a half inches from bottom outer edge 158, and barb 164 has a length of about three eighths of an inch. As shown in FIG. 1, to assist in installing a first row of siding pieces, a starter nailing strip 70 can be attached to building 10. Starter nailing strip 70 can be configured in a substantially similar manner as nailing strip 162. The barbs for each siding piece in the first row of siding pieces can then be inserted between starter nailing strip 70 and building 10 in the same manner as discussed above.

[0044] Returning to FIG. 6, siding piece 50 also includes a plurality of slot supports 71. Slot supports 71 allow two siding pieces 50 that abut one another to be joined using a tab and slot approach that is commonly known in the art. While shown on interior side 52 of siding piece 50, it is understood that slot supports 71 can be placed anywhere on siding piece 50, including on one or more supports 60 and exterior side 54.

[0045] FIG. 8 shows top views of illustrative siding pieces incorporating a tab and slot system according to one embodiment of the invention. The siding pieces comprise a pass corner siding piece 428, a butt corner siding piece 430, and a straight siding piece 431. Each siding piece includes an interior side 452 that is attached to a building and an exterior side 454.

[0046] In this embodiment, pass corner siding piece 428 includes two slot supports 471 on interior side 438 for accepting tabs 472 included on corner end 442 of butt corner siding piece 430. When installed, tabs 472 align with apertures in slot supports 471 to join butt corner siding

piece 430 with pass corner siding piece 428. Butt corner siding piece 430 is shown including a tab 472 proximate exterior side 454 and a tab 472 proximate interior side 452. However, it is understood that tabs 472 can be located anywhere along corner end 442 of butt corner siding piece 430 and/or interior side 438 of pass corner siding piece 428. Pass corner siding piece 428 and butt corner siding piece 430 are also shown including tabs 474 on their respective interior ends. Tabs 474 can be included to join pass corner siding piece 428 and butt corner siding piece 430 with an abutting straight siding piece 431. Straight siding piece 431 includes a slot support 476 for use with tabs 474. Slot support 476 is shown as extending the entire length of straight siding piece 431. In this configuration, slot support 476 can include a plurality of apertures spaced so that tabs 474 can be inserted and align with an aperture regardless of whether straight siding piece 431 requires cutting along its length prior to being installed on a building. It is understood that various alternative placements and configurations of tabs and slots are possible. For example, straight siding piece 431 can include a tab on one end, and slot supports on the other. Alternatively, pass corner siding piece 428 and butt corner siding piece 430 can include a slot support similar to slot support 476. In this case, a dual tab piece 478 can be provided that can be inserted in the slots of two abutting siding pieces.

[0047] FIG. 9 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative siding piece 250 according to another embodiment of the invention. Similar to siding piece 50 (FIG. 6), siding piece 250 includes an interior side 252 and an exterior side 254. However, interior side 252 has an indented central portion 253 that allows air to flow between the building and siding piece 250 when siding piece 250 is attached thereto. Additionally, siding piece 250 includes an alternative interior bracing 260. Interior bracing 260 is placed at a location on interior side 252 that

corresponds to an approximate center of exterior side 254. Interior bracing 260 then forms a curved “Y” shape that meets exterior side 254 at locations on either side of the center of exterior side 254. Further, siding piece 250 is also shown with slot supports 271 located on exterior side 254, rather than interior side 252. Slot supports 271 are also shown having an open channel. In this embodiment, a tab can slide into slot supports 271 to provide additional stability, without locking to slot supports 271.

[0048] A vertical post log corner is another popular look for an outer corner of a log and/or simulated log structure. FIG. 10 shows a perspective view and FIG. 11 shows a top view of an outer corner 112 of a building 110 that has a simulated vertical post log corner 180 constructed according to one embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIGS. 10-11, vertical post log corner 180 comprises at least one outer corner log siding piece 182 and a plurality of rows of straight siding pieces 131 along the height of outer corner 112. Each straight siding piece 131 can be attached to building 110 so that one end abuts outer corner log siding piece 182. Further, the abutting end of each straight siding piece 131 could join to outer corner log siding piece 182 using, for example, support slots and tabs as discussed above. Alternatively, a small amount of space (e.g., a quarter of an inch) can be left between outer corner log siding piece 182 and a straight siding piece 131 to allow for expansion, contraction, and the like.

[0049] FIG. 12 shows a cross-sectional view of an illustrative outer corner log siding piece 282. Outer corner log siding piece 282 is shown including a rounded exterior side 284 that simulates the look of a log. Exterior side 284 is supported by a pair of side bracings 286A-B, and an interior bracing 288. A notch 290 is also included opposite exterior side 284 to readily allow outer corner log siding piece 282 to be attached to each side of an outer corner of a building as

shown in FIGS. 10 and 11. To this extent, a portion of notch 290 can extend beyond side bracings 286A-B to allow for nailing, screwing, tacking, or the like, outer corner log siding piece 282 to the building. Further, this portion of notch 290 can include holes or the like, to further aid in the attachment of outer corner log siding piece 282 similar to nailing strip 70 (FIG. 1) as discussed above. Outer corner log siding piece 282 can comprise any width and/or length desired. For example, outer corner log siding piece 282 could comprise a length of eight, ten, or twelve feet, and have a diameter of approximately nine and a half inches. Additionally, an end of outer corner log siding piece 282 could be enclosed and be configured to slope at a slightly downward angle away from the building when attached thereto.

[0050] It is understood that numerous variations of outer corner log siding piece 282 are possible. For example, exterior side 284 could comprise a rectangular, octagonal, or some alternative shape. Further, side bracings 286A-B could be angled in a manner that a butt corner siding piece 430 (FIG. 8) can be used rather than a straight siding piece as shown. Additionally, exterior side 284 can be configured to simulate any of various types of log styles (e.g., handcrafted, swedish cope, pioneer, cabin, etc.) as well as any of various wood types (e.g., cedar, pine, spruce, fir, etc.). Still further, while shown and described as being mounted vertically, it is understood that outer corner log siding piece 282 could be mounted in any position (e.g., horizontal, angled, etc.) to a building or other structure.

[0051] In order to meet one or more openings in a building with the simulated log siding in a visually pleasing manner, a channel siding piece can be included. For example, FIG. 13 shows a cross-sectional view of an illustrative channel siding piece 91. Channel siding piece 91 includes an interior side 92 for attaching channel siding piece 91 to a building and an exterior side 94 for

simulating a log look while covering one or more siding pieces (e.g., straight siding piece 431 (FIG. 8)), which can be attached to interior side 92 by a support 96. In one embodiment, support 96 has a length that is sufficient to place exterior side 94 beyond the widest point of the siding pieces attached to the building. For example, if the siding pieces are a maximum of three and a half inches wide, then support 96 can have a length just beyond three and a half inches (e.g., approximately 3.56"). In any case, exterior side 94 can have a length of approximately two and a half inches so that the end of each siding piece is readily covered, while maintaining a small profile for channel siding piece 91. Siding pieces can be mounted alongside channel siding piece 91 in such a manner that a gap (e.g., a quarter of an inch) remains between support 96 and the end of the siding piece. As a result, the siding piece can be allowed to expand, contract, or the like without buckling. To this extent, it is understood that side bracings 286A-B (FIG. 12) of vertical post siding piece 282 (FIG. 12) could have similar shape and dimensions as channel siding piece 91 in order to allow the ends of siding pieces to be hidden behind exterior side 284 (FIG. 12) when installed. It is understood that channel siding piece 91 is only illustrative, and numerous modifications can be made. For example, exterior side 94 could be rounded to simulate a quarter log or the like.

[0052] FIG. 14 shows an illustrative building 210 having simulated log siding according to one embodiment of the invention. Building 210 is shown having numerous straight siding pieces 231 that substantially cover the side of building 210 from foundation to its peak, thereby creating an appearance of a log structure. Building 210 includes simulated vertical post corners that are created using vertical post siding pieces 282 to which siding pieces 231 butt up against. For doors and windows, channel siding pieces 291 are used to accept and cover the ends of siding

pieces 282. As shown, channel siding pieces 291 can be installed on an angle and cover an end of a siding piece 282 that is cut at an angle. Further, siding pieces 291 could be installed in a horizontal manner to provide a consistent look along the top and/or bottom of a window, door, etc.

[0053] The foregoing description of various aspects of the invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed, and obviously, many modifications and variations are possible. Such modifications and variations that may be apparent to a person skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the invention as defined by the accompanying claims.